

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 9, 14, 15, 18, 21, 24, 26, 27, 30, 32 and 35 have been amended. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tyler *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,523,942), hereafter "Tyler."

A. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-14 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

The Office has rejected claims 1-14 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite, "a computer implemented method for managing a relationship with a venture company." Claims 2-14 depend from claim 1. Applicants assert that this amendment further directs the invention to statutory subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

B. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-35 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office has asserted that claims 1-35 are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Office asserts that the term “relationship” is not clear for intended use. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and submit that the term “relationship” is defined in the specification of the present invention as “...a merger, alliance, equity investment, or other business arrangement between an existing business entity and a venture company.” Page 9, lines 6-7. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the term “relationship” and related terms mentioned by the Office are clear for intended use and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

C. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-35 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection over Tyler, Applicants assert that Tyler does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, with respect to independent claims 1, 9, 14, 15, 21, 26, 27 30 and 32, Applicants submit that Tyler fails to teach a venture company wherein the venture company comprises a new business entity that is seeking a relationship with an existing business entity. Instead, Tyler teaches “...a computer implemented graphical user interface for receiving instructions and information relating to insurance products, and for displaying insurance proposals relating thereto.” Abstract. This graphical user interface has “...an insured section for receiving personal information about a person to be insured.” Abstract. Nowhere does Tyler teach that its person to be insured is a venture company that comprises a new business entity that is seeking a relationship with an existing business entity. In contrast, the claimed invention includes “...a venture

company...wherein the venture company comprises a new business entity that is seeking a relationship with an existing business entity.” Claim 1. As such, the venture company of the claimed invention is not merely a person to be insured as in Tyler, but instead comprises a new business entity that is seeking a relationship with an existing business entity. Thus, the venture company as included in the claimed invention is not equivalent to the person to be insured in Tyler. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw its rejection.

With further respect to independent claims 1, 9, and 14, Applicants respectfully submit that Tyler also fails to teach providing venture information from the venture company pertaining to the venture company. Instead, the passage of Tyler cited by the Office teaches “collecting information required to design an insurance product for a customer.” Col. 5, lines 34-35. However, the information of Tyler is information required to design an insurance product and not venture information. Furthermore, the information of Tyler is collected for a customer and not from a venture company and pertaining to the venture company. The present invention, in contrast, includes “...providing venture information from the venture company pertaining to the venture company.” Claim 1. As such, the information of the claimed invention is not merely information required to design an insurance product as is the information in Tyler, but rather is venture information. Furthermore, the information of the claimed invention is not merely for a generic customer as in Tyler, but is instead from a venture company and pertaining to the venture company. For the above reasons, the information of Tyler is not equivalent to the venture information as included in the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

With further respect to independent claims 1, 9, 26, 27 and 30 and with respect to dependent claims 18, 24 and 35, Applicants respectfully submit that Tyler also fails to teach querying a row of the database to provide a single record of relationship information pertaining to the venture company even if the single record of relationship information is not located in a specified row and column of the database. The passage of Tyler cited by the Office teaches “the design grid can be a matrix of rows and columns that conditionally appear based on the type of product and component data entered.” Col. 6, lines 11-13. However, the cited passage never specifies that the conditional appearance of the rows and columns of the design grid of Tyler is the result of a query by row to provide a single record or that the query returns the single record even if the single record is not located in the row and column of the database specified in the query. The claimed invention, in contrast, includes “...querying a row of the database to provide a single record of relationship information pertaining to the venture company even if the single record of relationship information is not located in a specified row and column of the database.” Claim 1. As such, the database of the claimed invention does not merely conditionally appear as do the rows and columns of the design grid in Tyler, but is instead queried by row to provide a single record of relationship information pertaining to the venture company. Furthermore, the single record of relationship information of the claimed invention is provided even if it is not located in the specified row and column of the database. For the above reasons, the querying of the claimed invention is not taught by the conditionally appearing of Tyler. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

With further respect to independent claim 14 and with respect to dependent claims 7, 12, 16, 22 and 33, Applicants respectfully submit that Tyler also fails to teach evaluating the scoring

data to determine whether to form a business relationship with the venture company. Instead, the passage of Tyler cited by the Office teaches “required to generate a proposal.” Col. 6, line 5. As such, the cited passage teaches only that a proposal is to be generated and that some feature is required to generate it. Nowhere, does Tyler teach that the feature is evaluating, that the evaluating involves scoring data, or that the result of the evaluation is a determination of whether to form a business relationship with a venture company. The claimed invention, in contrast, includes “...evaluating the scoring data to determine whether to form a business relationship with the venture company.” Claim 1. As such, the evaluating of the claimed invention is not merely some unspecified requirement for generating a proposal as in Tyler, but instead involves evaluating the scoring data to determine whether to form a business relationship with a venture company. Thus, the evaluating of the claimed invention is not taught by the requirement of Tyler. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

With further respect to independent claims 9, 26 and 30 and with respect to dependent claims 5, 18, 24, 28 and 35, Applicants respectfully submit that Tyler also fails to teach duplicating the single record from a first column of the queried row to a second column of the queried row. The Office asserts that Fig. 5, element 202 teaches this feature. Office Action, page 5. However, the name field (element 202) in the table referred to by the Office does not contain duplicate records, but instead each entry is different (e.g., Proposal #4, Proposal #3, Proposal #2). Fig 5. Nowhere does Tyler teach in this figure or elsewhere a single record from a first column of the queried row is duplicated to a second column of the queried row. In contrast, the claimed invention includes “...duplicating the single record from a first column of the queried row to a second column of the queried row.” Claim 9. As such, the single record from a

first column of the queried row is not merely a new value as in Tyler, but is instead duplicated to a second column of the queried row. Thus, the single record of the claimed invention is not equivalent to the name field of Tyler. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to dependent claims 4 and 11, Applicants respectfully submit that Tyler also fails to teach that each row of the matrix corresponds to a separate venture company, and wherein each column of the matrix corresponds to a separate time interval. The Office asserts that elements 204 and 205 of Fig. 5 teach this feature. Office Action, page 5. However, the insured field (element 204) and date field (element 205) referred to by the Office both are illustrated as columns in the cited figure, and not one as a row and the other as a column. Fig. 5. Nowhere does Tyler teach in this figure or elsewhere that each row corresponds to a separate venture company and each column corresponds to a separate time interval. In contrast, the claimed invention includes "...the each row of the matrix corresponds to a separate venture company, and wherein each column of the matrix corresponds to a separate time interval." Claim 4. Thus, the insured field and date field of Tyler that are both columns do not teach the separate venture company rows and separate time interval columns of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

With regard to the Office's other arguments regarding dependent claims, Applicants herein incorporate the arguments presented above with respect to the independent claims listed above. In addition, Applicants submit that all dependant claims are allowable based on their own distinct features. However, for brevity, Applicants will forego addressing each of these

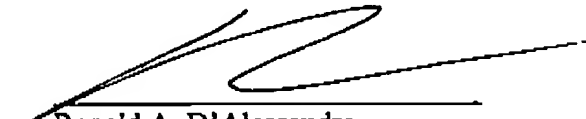
rejections individually, but reserve the right to do so should it become necessary. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw its rejection.

IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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